



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **School Committee Minutes 06/14/2005**

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2005**  
**7:30 PM**

**Present:** Jeff Thielman, Chair  
Sue Sheffler, Vice Chair  
Suzanne Owayda, Secretary  
Sean Garballey  
Susan Lovelace  
Paul Schlichtman  
Martin Thrope

Superintendent Kathleen Donovan  
CFO: Rob Addelson  
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry  
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos

**Call to Order:** Chair, Jeff Thielman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and stated that on behalf of the School Committee he would like to thank voters for their support of the override.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Anne Albertazzi, representative of the Unit C Negotiating Committee read a letter relative to the secretarial contract. On June 13<sup>th</sup> the negotiating committee was scheduled to review and sign the final contract but did not do so due to the fact that the administrator found a mistake and requested that negotiations be reopened to correct the mistake. Ms. Albertazzi explained that it was the understanding of the union that the contract would run from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007; that it was ratified by Unit C and unanimously approved by the School Committee. Ms. Albertazzi requested that the School Committee act in good faith and that the contract be readied for signing.

### **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

#### **Title IX Report (per Policy JJ)**

Rob DiLoreto, Athletic Director of AHS reported on the draft report that the Title IX committee put together. Mr. DiLoreto stated that the mission of the committee was to "review AHS athletics in total to ensure that all student-athletes have equal opportunity in a supportive environment that fosters a positive attitude toward all programs, and educate the general community about these athletic opportunities". Mr. DiLoreto summarized and reviewed the goals pertaining to Title IX.

Ms. Sheffler stated that as chair of the budget subcommittee she would be interested in meeting to discuss fundraising for the athletic department.

**Consent Agenda** All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

**\*Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2005**  
**Executive Session minutes of April 26, 2005**

**\*Approval of Warrant # 05161 in the amount of \$447,541.77 (removed)**

**\*Second Readings: Policy HA/HB; HC; HK; HE/HF; HG**

Mr. Schlichtman requested that the approval of the warrant be removed from the Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was  
Voted approval of the Consent Agenda

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- **Report on graduation** Supt. Donovan reported that graduation went well as did as the AHS last blast.

- **Town Meeting Update**

Mrs. Donovan stated that the school budget received a unanimous vote at Town Meeting; however at the end of the meeting there was a motion to reconsider all of the budgets. That will be addressed at Wednesday's Town Meeting. There was also a presentation updating the progress on Peirce Field.

- **Dallin Principal Search** - Mrs. Donovan reported that Bishop School principal, Steve Carme is in charge of the screening committee and will be conducting interviews.

- **May 31 Financial Report (Policy D)**

CFO Addelson presented the FY2005 School Budget Report: Budget vs. Actual Spending as of May 17, 2005. Mr. Addelson requested that the Committee approve the transfer of funds from Management Services in the amount of \$237,959 to Operations and Maintenance in the amount of \$148,652.00; to Instructional Support in the amount of \$54,931.00; and \$34,377 to the High School.

Mr. Thrope made a motion seconded by Mr. Lovelace

That the Administration at our next meeting recommend transfers to cover program level deficits with the exception of our-of-district tuition and that all remaining surpluses be carried over to the next fiscal year for allocation by vote of the Committee upon recommendation of the Superintendent at the meeting of July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Addelson explained that we have no authority to carry over the money in the absence of an encumbrance for a particular purpose; that the proposed spending that is reflected in the report is for particular purpose.

Mr. Thielman ruled Mr. Thrope's motion out of order since it cannot be done legally.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was

Voted to approve the recommended budget transfers presented by CFO Rob Addelson. Unanimous

- **Report on Additional State Funds** Supt. Donovan reported that both the House and Senate voted and the Governor signed the bill to increase Chapter 70 funds

- **Report of After School Programs** Mrs. Donovan provided the Committee with a Survey Report on After School Needs and Options Grades K-8 and also a Directory of After School Programs Grades K-8. The Superintendent stated that the reports provide most of the information requested by the Community Relations Subcommittee. Supt. Donovan has asked the Hardy After School Program to explore expanding their programs into other schools.

- **Revolving Accounts** – Supt. Donovan reported that the School Committee might need to change the type of revolving accounts for the school department in order to comply with State Law.

Mr. Thielman noted that the Committee needed to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations and to receive a report on the Peirce Field.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was voted:

To enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a matter relative to the litigation of the Peirce Field. this discussion in public session would have detrimental affects on the Town's dispute resolution posture. Also, to discuss collective bargaining issues, discussion of which, in open session, would have a detrimental affect on the Town's negotiating position. The Committee will reconvene in open session to conduct further business. Roll Call: Unanimous

**Executive Session 8:25 – 9:50 pm.**

**PRESENTATION/APPROVAL OF NEW ASST. SUPT./SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

Incoming superintendent, Nate Levenson addressed the Committee relative to the hiring of the assistant superintendent of curriculum and the special education director. Mr. Levenson reviewed the hiring process used explaining that there was a search committee for each position that met, reviewed resumes, interviewed semi-finalists and forwarded the finalists to be interviewed by both Supt. Donovan and himself. As part of the transition Nate stated that it is with great pleasure and much optimism to announce Kevin Hutchinson as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Barbara Cataldo as Director of Special Education.

Supt. Donovan recommended that the School Committee approve the hiring of Kevin Hutchinson as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction effective July 1, 2005.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman by Ms. Sheffler it was

Voted that the Arlington School Committee hire Kevin Hutchinson for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction of Arlington Public Schools effective July 1, 2005. Roll Call: Unanimous

Supt. Donovan recommended that the School Committee approve the hiring of Barbara Cataldo as the Director of Special Education for the Arlington Public Schools.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted that the Arlington School Committee hire Barbara Cataldo for the position of Special Education Director for the Arlington Public Schools. Roll Call: Unanimous

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Policy & Procedures** Mr. Thrope reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Mr. Thielman requested that the subcommittee review Chapter 51A of MGL. On a motion made and seconded it was voted to refer the review of MGL Chapter 51A to the policy and procedures subcommittee for review.

- **Selectmen Liaison**

Mr. Schlichtman reported that the Traffic Advisory Committee is conducting an investigation on traffic patterns at Downing Square.

- **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment** Ms. Owayda reported that the subcommittee would schedule a meeting during the summer.

- **Budget** – Ms. Sheffler reported that the subcommittee met on Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> and discussed the five-year fiscal plan.
- **Community Relations** Ms. Lovelace reported that the subcommittee met on June 1<sup>st</sup> and received an update on APS website/use of technology, Partners in Education project/grants and the role of Community Education Programs with APS. The subcommittee also discussed: the Bishop School Bus, Athletics and Safe Routes to School - Biking to School, details can be read in the subcommittee minutes.

The subcommittee also discussed the role the school committee has in the after school programs and in response Ms.

Lovelace brought the following motion:

On a motion by Ms. Lovelace seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was

Voted that under APS policy - KFD - the School Committee request that the Superintendent collect from each of the extended day programs operating in any Arlington Public School by August 15<sup>th</sup> a report that will include the following information:

- Verification of OCCS licensure
- Program description
- Hours of operation
- Daily Schedule
- Number of students enrolled and waiting list if any (capacity allowed under OCCS license)
- Transportation accommodations if any
- Fee schedule
- child to staff ratio
- staff qualifications and teaching certification if applicable for each staff person
- Financial statements including: all sources of revenue and all operating expenses including all staff salaries

### **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Thielman noted that there was a vacancy on the Human Rights Commission and a request by Mahendra Desai to be considered for the appointment. Mr. Thrope stated that he knew of an interested party and requested that that person have a chance to submit a letter before making the appointment. Mr. Thielman agreed to extend the deadline until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Correspondence reviewed by Ms. Owayda

### **REVIEW OF SUMMER CALENDAR**

The School Committee discussed the need for a meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> and agreed to keep the meeting scheduled for that day. The School Committee agreed to meet over the summer once in July and August and to attend a one-day retreat with the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was

Voted that the school committee hold a regular meeting on Monday July 18, 2005 and Thursday, August 11, 2005 at 7:30 PM.

### • **July 19<sup>th</sup> Workshop**

Mr. Thielman noted that the only day available for the School Committee Retreat with the Superintendent is July 19<sup>th</sup> and would like to schedule it for that day.

On a motion by Mr. Schlichtman seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted that the School Committee hold and attend a retreat with Mr. Levenson on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

### **Special meeting**

On a motion by Mr. Thrope seconded by Ms. Lovelace

Voted to authorize the chair to call a special meeting as soon as possible after receiving an opinion from legal counsel relative to the secretarial contract. Unanimous vote

### **SCHOOL DEPARTMENT TRANSITION**

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted to request the Chair of the School Committee, Jeff Thielman, to meet with Superintendent Donovan and the Payroll Officer to review the records to make an accounting of Superintendent Donovan's vacation days so we can properly and fairly administer her contract. Unanimous.

Supt. Donovan exited the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Schlichtman reported that MASC would be having their Division II meeting at the Hardy School on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted to adjourn at 10:40 PM.

Submitted by

Karen Tassone

Committee Secretary